641/702 of grace will continue long. It would seem that in the name of justice, the sooner these people participate in recruit duties the better. Entering into the body of the empire, being made members of the broad Russian family, enjoying the same rights, the population of Turkestan should also bear the same burdens. Unfortunately, in regard to recruitment, these newly annexed provinces are still in a special and unusual position. 703 The natives are not yet accustomed to Russian procedures, have not yet succeeded in acclimatizing themselves to Russian rule and to the demands of reasonable discipline. For them military service would be too sharp a transition from the kind of life they know, and there is no doubt that the new recruits would turn into /337/ very bad soldiers. The proximity of independent Central Asian khanates would contribute very much to desertions by our native soldiers. After our occupation of the Turkestan region desertions from the service by our soldiers occurred mostly among the lower ranks, among men of Tatar origin. They took refuge in countries related to them in religion, and found more attractive careers than in the Russian military service. This state of affairs led the administration of the Turkestan area to advocate not using Tatars in the lower ranks of the service in that region.

000 Thus, if the Volga Moslems have shown themselves unsuitable for Russian service in Turkestan, it is useless even to speak of the natives, who are even less consolidated with the